

In the claims:

Please enter the following amendments to those claims as indicated.

1. (currently amended) A switch comprising: [an] a depressible outer housing and an inner component; [switch means operable to provide a signal upon depression of said outer housing; resilient biasing means located between the inner component and the outer housing to provide a force which biases the outer housing from the inner component; and means for varying the spacing between the inner component and the outer housing and hence the biasing force provided by said resilient biasing means] resilient biasing means located in a space defined by and disposed between the inner component and the outer housing to provide a force which biases the outer housing from the inner component; means for varying said space between the inner component and the outer housing so as to vary the biasing force provided by said resilient biasing means; and switch means operable to provide a signal upon depression of said outer housing towards said inner component against said biasing force.

2. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 1, comprising a base having an inner retaining member upstanding therefrom.

3. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 2, wherein the inner component is mounted on and movable with respect to the inner retaining member.

4. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 2, wherein the inner component has a threaded inner surface which is screw-threadedly engageable with a threaded outer surface portion of the inner retaining member.

5. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 4, wherein the spacing varying means comprises the threaded inner surface of the inner component and the threaded outer surface of said inner retaining member.

6. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 1, wherein rotation of the outer housing causes the biasing force provided by said resilient biasing means to vary.

7. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 6, wherein the inner component rotates with the outer housing.

8. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 6, wherein the inner component comprises a plurality of laterally extending tabs or lugs locatable in respective longitudinal grooves formed in an inside lateral surface of said outer housing.

9. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 8, wherein the grooves permit longitudinal movement of the tabs or lugs to allow depression of the outer housing to cause operation of the switch means.

10. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 3, wherein the base has an outer retaining member upstanding therefrom, the outer retaining member having a transversely extending flange against which a transversely extending flange of the outer housing can abut to resist decoupling of the outer housing from the base.

11. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 1, wherein the resilient biasing means comprises a spring.

12. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 1, wherein the switch is substantially circular.

13. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 3, wherein variation in the spacing of the outer housing and inner component is accomplished whilst maintaining a substantially constant spacing between the outer housing and the base.

14. (currently amended) Use of [a] the switch according to Claim 1 connected as an item selection tool for a computer system.

15. (currently amended) A switch for a computer system, the switch comprising:

a base;

a retaining member upstanding from the base;

an inner component rotatably and screw-threadedly engaged with the retaining member;

[an] a depressible outer housing connected for rotational movement with the inner component;

resilient biasing means provided in a space defined by and disposed between the outer housing and inner component to bias one from the other; and

switch means operable to provide a signal upon depression of said outer housing;

the arrangement being such that rotation of the outer housing causes the spacing between the inner component and the outer housing and hence the biasing force provided by said resilient biasing means to vary.

16. (currently amended) [A] The switch according to Claim 8, wherein the plurality of laterally extending tabs or lugs are outwardly extending.